

Addendum to 9/8/08 Downriver study release

Four Downriver sites were featured in a July MDOT interim report. Whether the crossing might be a bridge or tunnel had yet to be resolved. The Downriver sites have ground too soft for a tunnel. Bridge construction is generally deemed cheaper, yet seven times longer than at the straits of the Detroit River; but even bridge sites are problematic, through an international wildlife sanctuary. Soil properties in both Central and Belle Isle sites, upriver, however, are suitable for either tunneling or bridging.

At www.partnershipborderstudy.com may be found a study on the Downriver Crossing options. On pp. 41-2, the study lays out the Evaluation Factors for the process in Table 8, the Goal of the undertaking, discussion of 'fatal flaws' and 'overriding considerations' (National/international issues).

On page 25, Table 7, it states that 'NO FEASIBILITY exists for a tunnel anywhere in the Downriver Illustrative Study Area.' It is possible in both Central and Belle Isle, however. Moreover, on page 24 it says that any bridge plaza is to have a minimum desirable plaza area of 80 to 100 acres.

On page 41, there is a general discussion of the scoring process. In pertinent part, the public and the Project Team will both complete a 'scoring form' and based upon a weighted formula, two scores will be calculated and submitted for comparison and contrast. Only after the evaluation scoring will cost effectiveness be applied. (Only the Federal government could so proceed!)

Further quotations from area residents:

Ted Karmazin, native of Grosse Ile, and resident for seventy years, said, "Senator Patterson has listened to the citizens of Downriver and his resolution demonstrates genuine leadership to stop the waste of taxpayers' money, while protecting the environment and preserving the character of our communities."

Dr. Henry B. Lick, of Safety and Health Solutions, said, "I believe Senator Patterson has been the brightest light the Downriver Communities have had in understanding the International Crossing Study. Senator Patterson has been at all the Study meetings and he has truly represented Downriver citizens well. His resolution will put this issue squarely in front of the Michigan Legislature and governmental departments. Senator Patterson's staff has also been very helpful."